

Halt Plot To Make Schools Serf Factories!

Chicago Is Scene of Opening Blow Against Free Education--American Labor Rallies to Conflict--Story of the Long Struggle of Teacher's Federation against Graft and Greed.

By IRWIN TUCKER
Editor of "The Christian Socialist"

A BOLD attempt to crush union labor by turning all the nation's public schools into scab shops and strike-breaking agencies was launched by the Chicago Board of Education on Sept. 1, when a rule was adopted making it illegal for any teacher in the public schools to belong to any organization affiliated with a labor union. If successful in Chicago, the plan will be carried to other cities.

Immediately behind this rule lies a long history of looting of funds belonging to the Illinois school children by organized graft. Millions of dollars stolen from public funds has been recovered by the Chicago Teachers' Federation, and its doom was determined upon partly in order that this thieving may go on without interruption.

BUT ANOTHER AND LARGER PURPOSE IS INCLUDED: AND THAT IS TO TURN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY MEANS OF A DUAL SYSTEM OF VOCATION EDUCATION, INTO SCAB SHOPS, wherein the children of working class parents shall be taught their fathers' trade SO THAT THEY MAY BE USED TO BREAK THE RANKS OF THEIR FATHERS' UNIONS AND FORCE DOWN WAGES BY THE SUPPLYING OF UNLIMITED CHILD LABOR.

Organized labor sees this, and is rallying to the fight. A monster mass meeting was called for Wednesday night, Sept. 8, at which Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, Louis F. Post, Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Margaret Haley, Business Agent of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, spoke, unveiling the black purposes behind the act.

If successful in Chicago, this system will be introduced into every public school in the United States. It will mean the destruction of every trade union; the throwing of millions of men and women, now employed at skilled trades, into the ranks of the unemployed; and unlimited graft for capitalism and capitalists.

LABOR RALLIES FOR STRUGGLE.

WHEN The Chicago Board of Education, Sept. 1, adopted a rule practically abolishing the Teachers Federation from the Chicago public schools, Chicago seethed with excitement. Organized labor throughout the land responded promptly to the call for help. Hour by hour the progress of the struggle was marked by the issue of extras and bulletins by the newspapers. For in the adoption of that rule, Graft and Greed threw down the gage of battle to Labor, defying honesty and decency and proclaiming that crookedness and thievery shall remain supreme in the cause which is nearest the heart of every workman--the education of his children.

The rule was jammed through by a vote of 11 to 9 in the Board of Education, following a committee report which had been adopted at a secret meeting of the committee with only half the members present. Labor was promptly aroused. Every engine that could be brought to bear to stir up popular opinion was immediately set in motion.

The rule had three purposes--explained by the movers of it:

First, forbidding public school teachers to belong to any organization affiliated with a labor union.

Second, forbidding any organization of teachers to have a business agent not a member of the regular teaching force.

Third, forbidding the teachers from attempting in any way to influence the city council.

This first clause was enacted because the cause of the Teachers' Federation is the cause of labor, and because the organized labor of Chicago has always stood back of the teachers in their fight against the unspeakable corruption of the ruling Board. The second clause was adopted because if the Business Agent is a member of the regular teaching force, she would be subject to discipline by the Board of Education, and dare not make a move that would challenge any of their crookedness. And the third, implied but not written in because women have recently been empowered to vote for municipal officials, and the Board seeks to take away from them that right to franchise conferred on them by the State of Illinois.

But why this ferocity? Why should the Teachers' Federation have been marked for destruction by the ruling powers? And why should the city of Chicago be stirred to its depths by the struggle?

TWO ISSUES AT STAKE.

TWO ISSUES are at stake in the struggle between organized Graft and Unlimited Greed

CAPITALISM in Assault on Public Schools Seeks to Break up Labor Unions by Training Children to Take Jobs from Their Fathers--Big Struggle Now On--Do Your Duty!

against the Teachers' Federation of the Chicago Public Schools.

One is the limitless opportunity for Graft in the expenditure of the Chicago School Budget. The other is the right of a workman's children to a decent education.

There are in the neighborhood of 300,000 children in the Chicago Schools. In one year there was an increase of 17,000 children over the enrollment of the year before. All these children have to be provided with teachers, school houses, books, equipment, desks and playgrounds. The average cost per pupil of the elementary and high schools was estimated at \$33 to \$35 a year, in a recent report of the superintendent. This makes the average expenditure for the total number of 300,000 children run to TEN MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

(Fifty-sixth annual report Chicago Board of Education.)

Ten million dollars a year is too big a sum for graft to let slip by. Grafters big and little fasten upon the stream of gold, in the process of its passage from the tolling hands of the working fathers to the brains of their children. All this money is expended under the direct supervision of the Chicago Board of Education. The present Board of Education is composed of grafters of high and low degree--building contractors, attorneys for building contractors, representatives of prominent concerns who lease school lands from the Board, decoy ducks and weak-kneed stool pigeons. They steal from the fund supposed to be devoted to the children's education in big slices and in small slices, by a myriad tricks and sleights of hand. The appointment of the School Board is one of the big plums in the disposition of the Mayor--DESPITE THE FACT THAT PEOPLE OVERWHELMINGLY VOTED TO MAKE THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIVE AND NOT APPOINTIVE. By a two to one vote in the year 1904 the citizens of Chicago demanded that they be allowed to name the persons who are to have control of the education of their children. Their demand was ignored--just as their demand for the municipal ownership of the street car system was ignored. And the Mayor continues to name the Board of Education--not from the educators; not from among the persons who have had anything to do with education in any shape or form, or who know anything about what children need and above all, not from among the working class whose children form the overwhelming majority of the pupils--Oh, no! But from among the Prominent Business Men and Leading Society Women whose only knowledge of schools is how much they can get out of them for their business.

There is but one obstacle in the way, and that is the teachers of the public schools, organized in the Teachers Federation which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Time and again have the teachers exposed the graft and stayed the hand of the grafters who were robbing their little charges of their right to knowledge. For this the Teachers' Federation has been marked for destruction.

MEANS OF GRAFT.

THERE ARE two principal means of robbing the children of Chicago of their right to knowledge. One is by land leases and purchases, the other is through the purchase of buildings and equipment.

In the year 1818 the United States Government gave the square mile between State, Madison, Halsted and Twelfth streets to the State of Illinois to be held in trust for the support of the public schools and the education of the children of Chicago.

On this square mile the business heart of the city of Chicago now stands. Had it been kept for the children, as good faith with the United States Government would have demanded that it should be kept, this one square mile would have yielded enough to support for all time the entire school system of the State of Illinois actually REDUCED THE RENTAL OF THESE lots by \$31,530.39--although the surrounding lots increased in value. Meanwhile the plea of poverty is continually being raised by the Board of Education as a reason why the teachers salaries should not be increased. The teachers have been fighting this additional barefaced theft.

The heaviest grafters of this steal are the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago News, the two most widely read papers in the city or state. Their great power of publicity is thrown into the effort to crush the Teachers Federation--BECAUSE IT IS THE TEACHERS FEDERATION AND THAT ALONE WHICH HAS KEPT UP THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS THEFT.

Not only that, but in revaluing the leases for the current year, a board composed of Bertram Winston, Simon W. Straus, and Jesse Holdom actually REDUCED THE RENTAL OF THESE LOTS BY \$31,530.39--although the surrounding lots increased in value. Meanwhile the plea of poverty is continually being raised by the Board of Education as a reason why the teachers salaries should not be increased. The teachers have been fighting this additional barefaced theft.

Here is one reason why the Teachers Federation is to be destroyed. Here is another: Continual expansion of the city and increases

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The Reasons

SOME of the REASONS why Big Business in Illinois and Chicago is hostile to the Chicago Teachers' Federation are as follows:

It is a labor union, an organization of brain workers, affiliated with the American and the Chicago Federations of Labor;

It started and has kept up a continuous war to make tax dodging corporations and plutocrats pay taxes they had been dodging for years; and by winning this fight have forced these corporations to pay \$600,000 a year in taxes since 1900 that they had been dodging before;

Carried on the fight against the infamous midnight meetings of the school board, which took away from the schools the right to revalue every five years the school land occupied by The Tribune Building and some of the land occupied by The Daily News;

Successfully fought efforts of the politicians on the school board to get control of the public school pension fund;

Supported the locked out pressmen and the striking stereotypes and newsboys during the troubles in 1912, which started with the newspaper trust locking out the union pressmen, in addition to aiding the garment workers, coal miners, and all other workers in every struggle of labor;

Affiliated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs and helped in the fight for equal suffrage; Has persistently fought the School Book Trust and supported Ella Flagg Young in her persistent fight to free the public schools from politicians and text book companies;

Fought the scheme of Big Business, through the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and Manufacturers' Association, to institute a dual system of education, which would put the children of the workers in one class and the children of the rich in another;

Fought to have the use of the public school buildings given to the people for social centers; Fought against dark rooms and basement rooms and for better health and educational conditions for children;

Supported a move for lunches for school children and conducted a campaign for the protection of children from preventable contagious diseases;

Fought for democracy in the National Educational Association, which formerly was controlled by politicians and school book companies;

Actively supported every move for public ownership of all public utilities.

MAKE SEPTEMBER 25 SOCIALIST SUFFRAGE DAY

The American Socialist will issue a special edition to help the women of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania win the ballot. This edition will be dated Saturday, Sept. 25.

This edition will help put additional fire into the Socialist Suffrage Campaign in these four states.

If you live in one of these suffrage campaign states you can help in the fight by distributing a bundle of this issue of The American Socialist. We are going to make you a special inducement. If you order 100 copies of this special suffrage edition, costing you 50 cents, we will also send you 100 of any of the following leaflets:

WOMAN, WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR BALLOT? by Elizabeth H. Thomas.
WAGE-EARNING WOMEN AND THE BALLOT, by Caroline A. Lowe.
WIMMIN AIN'T GOT NO KICK, by Kate Richards O'Hare.
WOMAN--COMRADE AND EQUAL, by Eugene V. Debs.
TO WIVES OF TOLLERS, by Meta L. Stern.

If you order 200 copies of this special suffrage edition, for \$1, we will send you 200 copies of any one of these five leaflets. If you can use more, we will send you a leaflet for every copy of this special edition that you order. Only the regular price for bundle orders will be charged; 50 cents per 100; \$1 for 200; \$2.50 for 500; \$5 per thousand.

If you do not live in one of the suffrage campaign states, you can promote the cause of Socialism, to an almost equal extent, by distributing this issue of The American Socialist. Make Sept. 25, National Socialist Suffrage Day, by distributing this issue everywhere throughout the nation. We are ready to receive your orders!

Settle the Nation's Problems Peacefully at the Ballot Box, Teacher's Advice to Labor

For a score of years the Chicago Teachers' Federation has fought the plutocratic tax dodgers. That is its greatest crime. In 1900 it forced big corporations to pay \$600,000 annually in taxes that they had been dodging. In 15 years this amounts to \$9,000,000.

One of Chicago's recognized champion tax dodgers is Julius Rosenwald, the hypocritical philanthropist mail order king, head of Sears-Roebuck & Co., who has his puppet on the Chicago Board of Education in the person of Jacob M. Loeb, brother of Albert Loeb, vice president and one of the chief stockholders of Sears-Roebuck & Co. It was Loeb that made the motion before the school board to crush the federation. It was Loeb who gloated most when the motion passed; he and William Rothman who has been charged with stealing from \$12,000 to \$20,000 as president of the Chicago Policemen's Pension Board.

These tax dodging corporations had their emissaries lobbying for their interests before the last session of the Illinois legislature. Margaret Haley was there working for the interests of the teachers, trying to secure the passage of an amendment to the Juul law, providing more money for school purposes. Here is how the viper of special privilege works. A Mr. Zander, Chicago real estate dealer, urged Margaret Haley to favor the taxdodgers' amendment before the legislature, in return for support that he could throw to the Juul law amendment giving more money to the schools. But the teachers were fighting the tax dodgers on behalf of all the people as well as trying to secure an increase in their own salaries. From here on let Margaret Haley, the fighting genius of the Teachers' Federation, tell her own story as follows:

By MARGARET HALEY

I BELIEVE that the fight, a large part of the fight that the big interests are making, is because I would not enter into an agreement to stand for that tax amendment.

I have characterized that tax amendment to the constitution as a tax dodgers' amendment, and I know that that is what it is.

It provides for giving the legislature the power to classify personal property and to exempt such personal property as it sees fit and put the burden on others; and every time the legislature has done that it has exempted the corporations. It has never once exempted the property of the poor people. It is the rich corporations that have been favored, that we have been fighting, and I could not and would not stand for that amendment.

And I want you men (speaking to the Chicago Federation of Labor) to understand that that is one of the largest factors in this fight. They expect to go to the people of this city with that tax amendment. If they can discredit me, if they can discredit this organization (the Chicago Teachers' Federation) before they start out, then half their battle is won. You could not afford to permit them to discredit us, if for no other reason than that you cannot permit that tax amendment to be passed in this state. It is laying the foundation for a vicious condition of affairs, and if there was no other person in this city who would fight against it, I intend to do it, and I serve notice today on the big business interests of this city and state that we are in that fight and that I am in it, whether they take the Teachers' Federation away from me or take me away from it. And I am here as long as I have a voice to raise, to say to the teachers, I consider my power, my opportunity, my glorious privilege of speaking to those teachers and conveying them these messages that I believe I have a right to convey on the questions, and I consider it the greatest privilege of my life, the privilege of awakening the minds of those teachers to the economic condition of this nation; to the conditions that I believe, if they are allowed to prevail, our nation will go the way Europe has gone; to the conditions that, if they are not changed, if the public school teachers of this city, of this state and of this nation are not aroused to the meaning of these economic conditions, to the necessity of changing these conditions through the political machinery, and changing the political machinery so that we can change these economic conditions. If that is not done it rests on my conscience and my heart that the boys that are going to the public schools have got to shoulder their muskets and go out and shoot one another to settle these questions. And it is because I want to see these questions settled peacefully and at the ballot box that I have season and of season with every particle of strength and with every hour of my time. With all the devotion of my spirit, my life and my strength I have stood before them and begged them to get into the labor movement, into the industrial struggle, into the economic struggle, in the interest of peace, in the interest of settling that question as we did not settle our Civil War.

If the next great struggle in this nation is to be settled peacefully, if it is to be settled by the ballot and not by the bayonet, it will be because that great army of peace, the public school teachers of this nation, is mobilized and trained in organization to join with their brothers and sisters in the labor movement to settle this question peacefully. That is what is in my soul. That is my strength, and that is what they fear; that is what the Loeb and the Rothmanns and their poor, pitiful little creatures on the Board of Education and in the Commercial Club back of them fear. That is another reason why you must not give up the fight.

GREED AND THE SCHOOLS.

"We may tolerate a colony of moral leprosy in our city slums; we may sin against the courts and the ballot box, and for all these crimes, we may atone in our generation; but when narrow, short-sighted greed reaches our public school system its blighting shadow falls forward over the years into the future. We may sin against our own day but we must not dare to send the people of the future, unequipped and made degenerate by our crimes to tasks which we cannot measure, problems which we cannot solve and difficulties which we cannot estimate. The Chicago public school system belongs to the people of Chicago and the people and must control it."--FROM THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

RETURN HIS GOLD.

Julius Rosenwald, head of Sears, Roebuck & Co., the Chicago mail order house, has just given the United States department of the interior a sum of money for the construction of a new trail in Glacier Park, Mont. Perhaps Rosenwald's conscience hurts him and he is trying in this way to pay back to Montana customers some of the profits wrung from them.

Rosenwald is a discredited philanthropist whom the Illinois Vice Commission exposed as a swearer of child labor. He is now in the limelight again in Chicago as one of the hidden powers behind the move to crush the Chicago Teachers' Federation and cut the pay of teachers to

PUSH PHILOSOPHY

By LINCOLN PHIFER

It having been discovered that Socialism is not yet dead, the making of peace will be indefinitely postponed.

The jingoes can't force America into war, but they put her into debt for war munitions.

Now that the war is almost over (?) there is of course no further need for "preparedness." What?

Watch the incoming congress dodge action on the Walsh report and then make it the basis of all sorts of fake promises in the campaign of 1918.

The "unrest" comes from the fact that the workers cannot be comfortable when half fed, overworked and not knowing what is to become of them and their children.

After polygamy has been legally established in Europe in order to create more children for future slaughter, no doubt the master class will still tell you that Socialism will destroy the sacred institution of marriage.

The private flag of the old time East India company consisted of seven red and six white stripes, and this became the basis of the flag of a government by private business.

The Rockefeller, by raising the price of crude oil, have mustered a host of defenders from among the owners of little oil wells. Yet they tell you economic determinism is a false philosophy.

The only sure preparedness against war is the establishment of Socialism.

They tell us America has no navy because the billions spent for a navy were for the most part grafted by private interests. Then they want us to spend other billions for a navy with the same private interests.

Labor day is too often a period in which the worker is patted on the head, instead of being smashed on the head as at other times, and told the lie that the interest of the worker and capitalist is the same.

How very patriotic those business men are who are drilling as an example to the workers! Now let them do all the fighting, and all the work.

Everybody knows that Rockefeller is a robber and murderer. But the courts protect him from indictment.

The reason you have no job is because the control of employment is in the hands of private interests.

The reason there is prostitution is because there is profit in it for the respectable and a living in it for women who would otherwise starve.

The reason there is war is because there is money in war for the armament trust and a chance to divert attention from the injustices of the present system through stirring up a fight.

The reason that workers have nothing is because they turn over everything they make to private owners of industry and then receive back whatever the masters are willing to give them.

The reason that politics are corrupt is because they are made to serve private interests.

The reason for the high cost of living is the control of the markets by an exploiting interest that makes a profit everywhere it is possible.

The reason for the great fortunes is that land and special privilege have been given to schemers, and the profit system has been used to increase that which came through fraud and theft.

The reason for poverty is that the worker is robbed and industry is conducted on a tremendously wasteful basis. There is enough known and demonstrated about industry right now, if applied, to absolutely banish poverty from the world.

The reason an outgrown system continues is that the workers permit, prejudice or a fear of leaving their old party affiliations to keep them from voting for a revolution.

The reason the Democratic legislature in the south refused to permit the people to vote on woman suffrage is because it is not democratic.

The reason that the Republican party stands for Rockefeller rule in Colorado is that it is not representative of the people.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST 4 YEARS \$1.00.

Working Class Parents through Land Must Protect Schools from Scheme to turn Children into Strike-breakers--Nation-wide System of Skilled Child Labor is the Final Aim of Exploiters.

By J. L. ENGBAHL
Editor of "The American Socialist"

THE profit-hungry plutocrats of Chicago and Illinois, in their efforts to drive the Teachers' Union from the schools of the nation's second largest city, challenged all the fathers and mothers of the land to battle.

I know that you are ready to fight, and fight hard, for the public schools, for your sons and for your daughters.

Millions of you fathers and mothers, just this week, sent your children, by the tens of millions, back to their desks and their books in the public schools, YOUR SCHOOLS, if you insist, otherwise THE SCHOOLS OF THE PLUTOCRACY, where your children will learn to become the WILLING SLAVES OF BIG BUSINESS.

CHICAGO TEACHERS PIONEERS.

THE SCHOOL teachers of Chicago are the pioneers among the school teachers of the nation. Brave and courageous, they have taken the lead. Undaunted and fearless in the face of all the terrors that the powers of plunder could bring to bear against them, they have blazed the way toward the brighter day.

They recognized that they must join the growing ranks of the labor movement. They discovered, long, long ago, that their place was in the great industrial struggle, in the great economic conflict in the interests of peace and human emancipation, and against militarism and war and the wages system.

Read the statement by Margaret Haley, the fighting genius of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, in another column. Her summons to battle to all the men and women of labor in Chicago. And labor in Chicago cannot win a glorious victory unless it is backed by the solid ranks of the working masses of the nation.

SOCIALISTS IN THE STRUGGLE.

SOCIALISTS HAVE rallied their full strength in every struggle of the working class. It is superfluous for me to state here that Ida L. M. Fursman, president of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, is an enthusiastic member of the Educational Committee of the National Socialist Party, appointed by the 1912 National Convention, which is preparing a comprehensive report that is expected to aid materially in freeing the public schools from the strangling grip of private industry. Socialists would rush eagerly to the field of battle even if they were not already represented there by such as Mary O'Reilly, Socialist for many years, one of the delegates of the teachers' union to the Chicago Federation of Labor, where her earnest work through many struggles resulted in her election to the federation's executive board.

Listen to John C. Kennedy, Chicago's twenty-seventh ward Socialist alderman addressing the Chicago Federation of Labor:

"There are many people who do not realize that organized labor was really responsible for the establishment of the public school system in the United States.

"Before we had the public school system children of the working class had to go to what they called charity schools. It was very much as if your children had to go to soup kitchens to get their meals today. It was looked upon as charity when the children of the working class got what little education they did get in the period from about 1820 to 1850 in New York City, Philadelphia, and in many other eastern cities, as well as in a few western cities. At the workers rightfully resented it.

"They claimed that an understanding of the conditions about them was something that every child was entitled to, and that inasmuch as education is necessarily the foundation of any republic, it was the duty of this republic to guarantee to every child an adequate education."

HEARD THIS BEFORE?

"At that time, when the argument was made everywhere by the labor men of that day, the were told: 'That is going to destroy the family. It is going to destroy the home. It is going to undermine the state,' and your big business men of that day said, 'You are taking our money away from us,' and all that sort of thing. They raised all sorts of arguments against the public schools; but, due to the persistence of the labor forces of that day the victory was won, and the system was established.

"But ever since that time there has been a perpetual warfare between the forces of progress and the forces of reaction, the forces of big business. The forces of big business have tried to control the system which they tried to prevent being established in the first place. They have ever since tried to conduct it and u

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HELP TEACHERS SAVE SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN

(Continued From Page One.)

for their own purposes. They have tried to change it from a system of education for the development of the child, to a system to prepare the raw material for their factories and their shops and their mines and their stores. They have wanted to make the public school system of the United States a sort of an annex to big business, a sort of preparatory course to give only such courses and to give such preparation and such training to the children as would be useful to these business concerns in turning out a maximum amount of goods.

"Now, this fight is not won yet. It has been going on for a long time, and therefore we should realize that after all it is going to depend on the forces of labor to say whether the children of the workers are going to get a real education in our public schools or whether they are going to be turned out as a machine made product ready for these business institutions and fitted only to work and be a part of the machinery of industry, instead of being human beings with a life of their own and a right to live that life. That is the fight in which organized labor is engaged at this time. It is a continuation of the original fight.

EDUCATION WILL END SYSTEM.

"The present big business system, which dominates to such a large extent the life of this city and this country, cannot continue to exist as it is if our children are well educated and broadly educated. If they get a thorough grounding in science, in economics, in sociology, if they get a taste of real life, they cannot be made servile wage earners; they won't stand for it. And the business interests realize that. Therefore, those who are now exploiting out of the life of the community upon the masses, those who want to hold labor in subjection, these also want to get at and control the public school system, because they know they cannot hold onto what they have unless they also get control of the public schools. They realize that, these business interests, who are only a small minority of the people, but who are tightening their grasp and injustice upon the masses of the people, they know they cannot retain their supremacy; they cannot retain their control, unless they also control the schools where the oncoming generation is to get its instruction.

"That explains why they are so eager to control the school board. It also explains why they are fighting against the organization of

the teachers in the public schools. This alliance of the teachers with the Chicago Federation of Labor is a crime—a crime, don't forget that—in the eyes of the business interests; in the eyes of those who want to crush out organized labor; in the eyes of those who want to grind down labor to a bare existence. This affiliation of the teachers with the Chicago Federation of Labor is a great crime. If they had not committed that crime, that is, if they had not united with their fellow workers, if they had not followed the words of Abraham Lincoln, when he said, 'The strongest tie binding people on this planet, aside from the family tie, should be the tie that unites those who toil'—if they had not followed his advice and followed his direction, perhaps they would not have looked in the eyes of big business. But they have committed that crime. They recognize that their interests are identical with the interests of the rest of labor."

STRUGGLE OF THE CLASSES.

THEREFORE, THE struggle of the Chicago teachers is a class fight, part of the great war between the master class and the working class.

The Chicago Teachers' Federation, like all organizations of labor, was born in battle, and grew in strength and influence as it won its way through many raging conflicts. It went through its baptism of fire in 1895 when it forced the state legislature to pass a teachers' pension law. This was followed by an effort to secure an increase in wages. It learned:

First—That self interest for the teachers included the whole school system. Second—That it included the welfare of all workers. Third—That it can be promoted only by those forces which tend to promote the general betterment of social conditions.

Having learned this thoroughly the teachers saw clearly that they could not compromise with the political and financial powers and accept in return, such small concessions as these powers might deign to make. They clearly saw that they must refuse to compromise upon

anything less than the rights of the whole class to which they belonged.

WAR ON ROCKEFELLER.

With the strength of this conviction to aid them they began war against John D. Rockefeller and his attempt to control the Chicago school system, once he had closed his clutches upon the University of Chicago. Dr. William Rainey Harper, president of Rockefeller's Standard Oil University, was a member of Chicago's school board, which led to his appointment as head of 'The Mayor's Educational Commission' that was going to 'reform' education in Chicago. This commission prepared a bill for presentation to the state legislature, providing for many changes in the school system. The bill became known as the 'Harper Bill' and was the first great cause of a universally expressed discontent at the close connection between Rockefeller's University of Chicago and the Chicago board of education.

"You needn't ask me to vote for that bill," said a member of the state legislature to a lobbyist. "I can smell kerosene all over it." Rockefeller's hired man, Dr. Harper, was outspoken in his desire to bring the University of Chicago into closer touch with the public schools. But he made his adroit advances as though conferring a great favor upon the public school system. It was evident from the start that public opinion was not with the doctor.

The 'Harper Bill' fixed the school superintendent's term at six years; provided that his salary could not be reduced during that time; placed in the superintendent's hands full power in the appointment and dismissal of assistant superintendents, principals and teachers, and also power in the choice of text books and school materials and the planning of the course of study. This would give despotic power into the hands of one man completely protected from the consequences of his acts by the salary and tenure of office clause. Only one problem then remained—to elect a right kind of a servile school superintendent. If the kerosene control back of the University of Chicago could name him, a great step would have been taken in building up the despotic power of the Standard Oil Trust. John D. Rockefeller's clutches would have closed upon the Chicago public school system and the way paved for complete control by the Rockefeller interests over the education of all the nation's children.

ROCKEFELLER'S PLAN DEFEATED. Both as president of the University of Chicago

and as a member of the Chicago board of education, Dr. Harper tried to poison and pervert the Chicago school system by placing the prejudiced graduates of the kerosene institution as teachers in the Chicago public schools. He even went so far as to prefer Chicago University students in place of the graduates of Chicago's normal schools in picking teachers for the public schools. But Rockefeller's schemes came to naught. The 'Harper Bill' was defeated in 1899. An effort to revive it in 1905 met a similar fate.

This defeat of Rockefeller's attempt to dominate the public system of the nation was directly due to the growing power of the school teachers' union. The victories the teachers have won during the last 15 years are the real reasons why they are now being persecuted by the plunderbund, which includes big national business interests that center in Chicago. In another column is given a list of 'the reasons' why the Chicago Teachers' Federation is being opposed; which constitute terrible 'crimes' in the eyes of big business.

During the summer months, The American Socialist has been telling its readers the stories of the subversion of the big state universities and public and private colleges to the exploiting interests.

It told how Scott Nearing was discharged from the University of Pennsylvania, with hardly a whimper from the other university professors raised in protest. And what was Nearing's crime? He had helped the masses fight the plagues and it was a winning fight.

It told how Brewster was ousted from the University of Colorado because he had championed the cause of the striking coal miners. The voice of protest from the rest of the Colorado University's teaching staff died before it was born and 'Murderer' Chase, adjutant general of the Colorado national guard that brought death to the women children and babes of Ludlow, still holds his professorship in the medical department of this disgraced institution of learning.

HEROIC REBELS IN UTAH.

Nineteen members of the University of Utah faculty revolted against their jobs rather than teach according to the rules laid down by the industrial despotism that rules the state of Utah. And all that the professors, the men of learning of the nation, did in support of the cause of these heroic rebels, their co-workers, was to appoint a committee to 'investigate.'

There were other articles, bubbling over with facts, showing how other big state universities,

among them the University of Washington and the University of Wisconsin, were being debauched and practically destroyed in so far as they were of any real use to living humanity. The story of humbled and humiliated state universities, removed from the people, and with their cowardly and cringing teaching staffs, has been written. Another chapter of the long struggle to save the nation's public schools from the nation's privately owned and humanly exploiting industries is now being written. But I am sure that this chapter will end like all the chapters preceding it—in a victory for labor and humanity.

NO CRINGING OR COWARDICE.

There is no cringing or cowardice among the Chicago school teachers. They learned long ago that when they went out to face the corporations they must face them alone. Old party politicians offered to aid them but when the fight grew hot these deserters. Reform organizations at times, offered their support, then gradually grew lukewarm and finally chilled into inactivity. And no wonder. The prominent officials and members of these 'reform' organizations were frequently the same old teachers who were after. And they were also the officials of the corporations the teachers were attacking.

So the teachers found their place and their support in the labor movement. The 'black coated proletariat' of the universities, the college professors, hastily crawl under their desks at the sight of the teachers. They are discharged for giving voice to the thoughts that are in their brain. Compare with him the lowly hod carrier. If an injustice is done one day laborer on one building under construction in Chicago, the Hod carrier's Union of Chicago can tie up every building job for a score of miles, from Evanston on the north to Gary, Ind., on the south. The Hod carrier's Union is doing and is doing and will continue to do this. Millions of dollars invested in building construction work obey the dictates of these hod carriers. The teachers saw in the power of organized labor the support they needed. If organization could win better working conditions, a shorter workday, increased wages for hod carriers, who had muscle power to sell; it could at least accomplish as much for the brain power the teachers had to sell.

TEACHERS FIGHT IN OPEN.

SO THE TEACHERS established their place in the labor movement. And now they are not

hunting hiding places, like the professors at the state universities and colleges. They have not been intimidated by threats coming from the most powerful citadels of capitalist greed. They are out in the open, fighting, and fighting hard, for victory and humanity.

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

WRITE A NOTE to the teacher of your son, or your daughter, urging her to become active in building up a local organization of teachers. Send her this copy of The American Socialist showing the brave fight of the Chicago school teachers. The capitalist newspapers of the nation have already spread lies broadcast. You read how the exploiters on the Chicago board of education denounced the members of the Chicago Teachers' Federation as 'lady labor leaders.' The bought press told you that. Well, what are you going to do to let in a little truth?

WILL NEVER STRIKE AGAIN.

Perhaps you already have a son or daughter who is a teacher in the public schools somewhere. If so, get them to start something.

The enemies of the public school system, our school system, because the plutes do not send their children to the public schools, have started something in Chicago. We are going to finish it. THE REPLY TO THE DASTARDLY BLOW STRUCK AT THE TEACHERS' UNION IN CHICAGO WILL BE A THOUSAND TEACHERS' UNION IN AS MANY CITIES, TOWNS AND HAMLETS SCATTERED OVER THE NATION. THEY HAVE STRUCK AT US. BUT WHEN WE ARE THROUGH STRIKING BACK, THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO STRIKE AGAIN.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1915.

ORGANIZE FOR 1916!

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Here is all the week's news worth while boiled down for workers so busy fighting for Socialism they do not have time to read the daily capitalist press.

MONDAY, AUGUST 30.

Elihu Root, master reactionary, announces his candidacy for president of the New York state constitutional convention. Germans make new gains on Russian front. German submarine sinks in United States. London papers.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31.

Foreign exchange rates, notably British sterling, drops in this country and U. S. foreign trade. German submarine sank Arabic was in turn destroyed by British. German submarine sinks in United States. London papers.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1.

Chicago school board votes to outlaw teachers' union by vote of eleven to ten. Fight is on!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2.

Two Americans killed by Mexicans near Brownsville, Tex.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels has been captured by the extreme militarists and will give support to jingo demands. For information see page 1.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

Fire destroys \$2,000,000 elevator used at Newport News, Va., for shipping grain to allies. Chiefly Great Britain.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5.

German submarine torpedoes the Canadian Steamer Hesperian off the coast of Ireland. Ship remains afloat and is taken to Queenstown. Two Americans on board rescued.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6.

German government decides to maintain force of republic instead of restoring monarchy.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7.

Ogden Armory, wife of beef packer, beaten by burglars and robbed of \$5,000 worth of gems at Chicago mansion.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8.

Street railway strike stops every car in Albany, New York. Export strike of garment workers in Chicago.

JUST GO AHEAD.

E. H. Harriman was probably the nation's greatest railroad wizard. He did his best to centralize the ownership of railroads. He wanted one big system. He did not believe in a large number of little competing systems. In working out his great program he amassed a great fortune. Most of his wealth was left to his widow.

Just as Harriman during his lifetime, centralized attention on one big national system of railroads, so Mrs. Harriman, with the wealth that her husband left her, is centralizing the people's thought on a fact that is a disgrace to the nation—the fact that 10 per cent of the present population of the United States is made up of defectives.

Harriman shot wide of the mark when he thought that a big railroad trust in private hands was the final solution of the transportation problem. So Mrs. Harriman also errs in launching her campaign for the sterilization of 15,000,000 American defectives to bring about a perfect human race.

The consolidation of railroads by Mr. Harriman did not stop the exploitation of a helpless people by private profit, and the sterilizing of defectives will not develop a perfect human race because the profit system under which we live now is directly engaged in the making of defectives, probably just as rapidly they can be sterilized.

But the centralization of railroad control in a few hands makes it easier for the people as a whole to see the reasonableness of the defective system under which we live now. The railroads, Mrs. Harriman, also, is doing good in centralizing the thought of the nation on the great problem created by its millions of defective human beings.

It is declared that Mrs. Harriman's committee of experts, after four years of preliminary work, will demand the sterilization of 15,000,000 persons in this country this year. The committee estimates that it will be essential similarly to treat annually an increasing number as the population increases, until, in 1980, 415,000 persons in the United States alone will be sterilized every year.

Mrs. Harriman's commission has well protected itself by placing its dim Utopia 75 years into the sweet by and bye. If the sterilization of 15,000 human beings this year has any good behind it, the results ought to begin to show this year. Instead nearly five times that number must be sterilized 75 years from now.

But our advice to Mrs. Harriman's experts is to go ahead. For every sterilized defective, hundreds of men and women will begin to think. The relatives and friends of every sterilized human being will ask, 'How can the relative or friend of mine be defective?' And when there are defectives in spite of this wholesale sterilization scheme they will want to know the answer to that, too. They will gradually learn that the profit system, demanding that children and women be sent into the factories to slave at their tasks through endless days, makes children defectives both before and after they are born. They will learn that the profit system, with its low wages, homes without comfort, food without nourishment, life without happiness, is not only pauperizing but making the entire race more or less defective.

We would have told Mr. Harriman, 'Go ahead and create one, big, unified railroad system. That will make it all the easier for the people to take it over and operate it for their own benefit.'

So now we say to Mrs. Harriman, 'Go ahead and sterilize. The more you sterilize, the more you arouse

Chicago Is Scene of Opening Blow Against Public Schools

(Continued From Page One.)

In the number of its children make it necessary that new schools should be erected.

For the land has to be 'condemned' and bought. These lands that were selected by the Board are bought up in advance by friends of the member of the Board, and then sold to the city at advances of thousands of dollars over the purchase price—netting the 'fiends of the Board' big fortunes at the expense of the children. Congressman Sabbath was heavily involved in this graft. And the Teachers' Federation fought this.

Here are other sources of graft: School books were sold to the children of Chicago schools at prices far in advance of their sale price in other states.

Certain favored firms got free advertising by having their names used for examples in arithmetic problems. Large quantities of supplies are contracted for at fancy prices.

Two members of the Board, William Schickel and Joseph Holpich, are contractors. They deal in bricks and construction work; and many is the rich contract they dispose of. Millions of dollars are spent in construction work and repair work by the Chicago schools—and they have the inside knowledge of these contracts.

PRINCIPAL PERSONS INVOLVED.

JACOB M. LOEB, the man who moved the resolution to kill the Teachers' Federation, is a brother of Albert Loeb, vice-president of Sears, Roebuck and Company. Albert Loeb is thus close to Julius Rosenberg, a heavy investor in State street land close to the school land. Rosenberg is the chief exponent of Big Business methods in Chicago.

William Rothman, who succeeded Loeb, is a law partner of Roy O. West, attorney for the International Harvester Company and National Republican Committee from Illinois. He is attorney for the Chicago City Railway Company. Both are well known foes of union labor. Rothman was proven to have allowed thousands of dollars to be stolen from the city police pension fund when he was chairman of the Pension Board.

John W. Eckhardt, next most active, is an uncle of Percy Eckhardt, another partner of Roy O. West. Ralph C. Otis, millionaire, is holder of the school land at Madison and State street, and one of the chief profiteers from the 'Midnight Lease.'

STATE LEGISLATURE INVOLVED.

BACK OF THE assault on the Teachers' Federation lies a very ugly story. For some time the suspicion has been growing that the finances of the School Board needed severe overhauling. Alderman R. M. Buck introduced a resolution last spring providing that a subcommittee of the Council should investigate the city school finances. The Board of Education defied the Council to investigate it, and blocked the move in every possible way. Mayor Thompson vetoed the ordinance, but it was passed over his veto, and it looked as though something would come to light.

The Legislature of Illinois convened for one day on June 30 to wind up its business. A motion was made in the senate to correct the journal of June 10, to show the de-

MONEY THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN GRABBED BY THE THIEVES ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Hence there has been a continual fight against Mrs. Young. She has been accused of 'demoralizing the schools.' And Graft will get her out if Graft can do it.

PLANS FOR SCAB FACTORIES.

BUT EDWIN G. COOLEY'S evil influence did not end with the reduction of salaries. His name is chiefly associated with a plan of 'vocational education' THAT WILL TURN THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTO SLAVE SCHOOLS FOR THE FACTORIES. According to this plan the pupils will be divided into two classes, the children of the rich and the children of the poor.

The children of the poor will be trained up as skilled workers so THAT THEY CAN TAKE THE JOBS OUT OF THEIR FATHERS' HANDS AT LESS THAN HALF PAY. They will be given a carefully planned 'education' that will chain them forever to the bench and the machine, and make it impossible for them to rise out of the ranks of the wage-workers.

Desperate efforts have been made and are being made to introduce this system into the schools of Illinois. The one big fight against it has been put up by the Teachers' Federation. And this is one more reason why the world has been looking for the Teachers' Federation must go.

ROCKEFELLER INTERESTED.

The Teachers' Federation was organized for the purpose of fighting for increases in salaries of the teachers. And Rockefeller and his interests come in here.

William Rainey Harper, for many years president of Rockefeller's University of Chicago, was for a term member of the Chicago Board of Education. He was chiefly interested in PLACING THE GRADUATES OF HIS COLLEGE IN THE CHICAGO SCHOOLS. He said, 'The University of Chicago can supply all the teachers needed by the city of Chicago at \$50 a month.' And all of the Rockefeller power was exerted to pass laws and make rules favoring the graduates of the Rockefeller university and opposing the Teachers' Federation. But the Teachers' Federation fought Rockefeller and beat him. Hence Rockefeller's interests are now lined up against the Teachers.

Of course it is evident that the less money is paid for teachers, the more money is available for graft. Consequently it was for years the policy of the board to crisscross many children into as few rooms as possible. Dark rooms, basement rooms, rooms ill-ventilated and ill heated, were filled to overflowing with miserable, suffering children. Sometimes 90 children were compressed—yes, compressed is the only word—into one room under the supervision of one harassed, nerve-shattered teacher—all to leave more money for graft. And the pay of the teachers was steadily undercut—always on the plea of 'economy' and 'efficiency.'

Edwin G. Cooley was the Superintendent of Schools to whom this enterprise of cutting salaries was mainly entrusted. When Mrs. Ella Flagg Young was made superintendent, her first task was to increase the number of teachers and the number of school-rooms. She abolished the 'half-time' system, whereby some children came in the morning and some in the afternoon for half a day's schooling. She abolished the dark basement rooms; she decreased the average number of scholars per teacher to 42 instead of 60 or 80. She raised the pay of the teachers. ALL THIS TOOK

HOPES THEY WIN.

That elected Socialist officials are different than the plute politicians has again been shown, this time in the strike of the 'gathering boys' and apprentices at the plant of the Coshoc-ton Glassware Co., Coshoc-ton, Ohio.

The Socialist mayor, L. N. Staats, declared himself to be in sympathy with the workers, and has issued orders to the police force to arrest none of the strikers.

"The boys have been getting only \$1.35 and \$1.50 a day," said Mayor Staats. "They are striking for \$2 a day, a living wage. I hope they win."

MUST END IGNORANCE.

Ignorance is the mother of oppression—every wise grafter knows that. Control of popular education must be secured by Capitalism before Capitalism's power is secure. An informed proletariat is the great foe of the Powers of Darkness; if the child of the workingman understands how his father is exploited, he may take steps to end the exploitation—so the child of the workingman must be kept in ignorance.

Capitalism's latest assault upon the Chicago Public schools is only an incident. Socialists and labor people throughout our free land know well how the School Boards of their respective communities are the point of assault for the powers of graft wherever children are taught.

Let us unite the Teachers to fight for us. They can best conduct the struggle.

College professors have recently organized to protect their freedom from the domination of great wealth. The cases of the colleges have been laid bare in these columns by Harry W. Laidler. Can we attempt a nationwide campaign to organize the teachers of the public schools?

IF THE PRESENT SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION COULD BE COMPLETELY KILLED, STILL INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS WOULD FORCE ANOTHER SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.

What about the demagogues that are defending Rockefeller after he was proved guilty of wholesale robbery and murder?

Let's repeal all laws forbidding the people to carry weapons. Nothing like preparedness.

It is reported that someone has sent Roosevelt a branding iron. Presumably he is preparing to put his brand of liar on everything in sight.

KIRKPATRICK'S BOOK

By EUGENE V. DEBS

The announcement in regard to Kirkpatrick's 'War-What For?' in the current American Socialist prompts this appeal in behalf of that book. This is the 'very time' for that great book, for such it is beyond question, to do the great work for which it was written. The horrors of war not only, but the cause of war and the object of war are set forth in this volume, and illustrated, as they are in no other volume on war ever written.

I happen to know that since this terrific indictment of the war lords, the manufacturers of munitions, the army contractors and the system in which they fatten and fester, was first published, all the power of this thieving and exploiting gang has been brought to bear to prevent its sale and put it out of circulation. This book, they know, if put into the hands of the people, means their finish. It points them out and calls them by name; it analyzes the system in which they thrive at the expense of honest toil, and it furnishes the means by which they can be brought to heel. It is a book from sources which cannot be questioned, which absolutely condemns them and their thieving, bloodthirsty, brutalizing system.

IF THIS BOOK were to suspend publication and disappear at this critical time for the want of a few paltry dollars it would be a positive discredit to the labor movement which inspired it and in whose behalf it has rendered such invaluable service with the very limited chance it has had.

The stranglehold of the capitalist clutch is upon 'War-What For?' and unless those interested come to the rescue it will go out of circulation and a powerful anti-war factor will disappear from our propaganda.

I know Kirkpatrick and I know the book. Kirkpatrick would not have permitted such an appeal except in the very last extremity. The book is about to be wrested from him in spite of all the splendid efforts he has made under the greatest difficulties to keep it going.

WE MUST SAVE 'War-What For?' and keep it circulating among the people at any cost. We simply cannot afford to see this powerful attack upon war and the system that creates war and is responsible for the blood that is shed and the misery of countless millions turned to naught, and one of our most effective weapons wrested from us and flung into the discard.

It will require but slight effort on the part of our comrades to save this monumental work. Let each of us do our share and send 'War-What For?', freshly vitalized, upon its awakening and inspiring mission.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—In last week's American Socialist, Kirkpatrick announced that he needed funds immediately to meet the demands of printers and binders. In order to secure these funds immediately he offered 'War-What For?' at \$10 per 100 copies. To those unable to handle 100 copies he offers 50 copies for \$5.00. This is an opportunity for live Socialists locally to give circulation to a great book and at the same time put a little money into their own treasuries, even by selling the book at 15 cents a copy. Address: George R. Kirkpatrick, Box 473, Madison Square Station, New York City.

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